

Workshop: Best Practices for Nonprofit Boards

Presenter: Professor Jerry Lindman, J.D.

glindman@ltu.edu -- (248) 204-3095 -- www.ltu.edu/management/nonprofit.asp



Example of

Board Member Commitment Pledge*

I will exercise the duties and responsibilities of this office with integrity, collegiality and care. I pledge:

1. To establish as a high priority my attendance at all meetings of the board, committees and task forces on which I serve.
2. To come prepared to discuss the issues and business to be addressed at scheduled meetings, having read the agenda and relevant background material.
3. To work with and respect the opinions of my peers who serve this board, and to leave my personal prejudices out of all board discussions.
4. To always act for the good of the not-for-profit.
5. To represent this not-for-profit in a positive and supportive manner at all times and in all places.
6. To observe the parliamentary procedures, and display courteous conduct in all board, committee and task force meetings.
7. To refrain from intruding on administrative issues that are the responsibility of management, except to monitor the results and prohibit methods that conflict with board policy.
8. To avoid conflicts of interest between my position as a board member and my personal life. If such a conflict does arise, I will declare that conflict before the board and refrain from voting on matters in which I have conflict.
9. To support in a positive manner all actions taken by the Board of Directors even when I am in a minority position on such actions.

* Adapted from Building an Effective Board of Directors, Frank Martinelli, The Center for Public Skills Training, www.createthefuture.com

* For more information, contact the Center for Nonprofit Management at Lawrence Tech University: www.ltu.edu/management/nonprofit.asp; nonprofitcenter@ltu.edu

Workshop: Best Practices for Nonprofit Boards

Presenter: Professor Jerry Lindman, J.D.

glindman@ltu.edu -- (248) 204-3095 -- www.ltu.edu/management/nonprofit.asp

10. To agree to serve on at least one committee or task force, attend all meetings, and participate in the accomplishment of its objectives. If I chair the board, a committee or a task force, I will:

- Call meetings as necessary until objectives are met
- Ensure that the agenda and support materials are mailed to members before meetings
- Conduct the meetings in an orderly, fair, open and efficient manner
- Make committee progress reports/minutes to the board at its scheduled meetings

11. To participate in:

- The annual strategic planning retreat
- Board self-evaluation programs
- Board development workshops and educational events which enhance my skills
- Fund raising and ensure the not-for-profit has adequate funding for its programs

My personal goals to improve my service as a board member are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

If, for any reason, I find myself unable to carry out the above duties to the best of my abilities, I agree to resign my position as a board member/officer.

Board member's signature

* Adapted from Building an Effective Board of Directors, Frank Martinelli, The Center for Public Skills Training, www.createthefuture.com

* For more information, contact the Center for Nonprofit Management at Lawrence Tech University: www.ltu.edu/management/nonprofit.asp; nonprofitcenter@ltu.edu